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OCT

WE ARE THE WALKING DEAD

DELUXE

ROBERT KIRKMAN CHARLIE ADLARD DAVE McCAIG

ESCRITOR
ROBERT KIRKMAN

DIBUJANTE
CHARLIE ADLARD

COLORISTA *ROTULISTA*
DAVE McCAIG RUS WOOTON

PORTADAS
DAVID FINCH + DAVE McCAIG
TONY MOORE + DAVE McCAIG
JULIAN TOTINO TEDESCO

EDITOR
AMANDA LAFRANCO

LOGOTIPO + DISEÑO *PRODUCCIÓN*
ANDRES JUAREZ CARINA TAYLOR

CREADOR DE THE WALKING DEAD
ROBERT KIRKMAN

ANTERIORMENTE:

La pelea de Rick y Tyreese pronto llegó a las manos y ninguno estaba dispuesto a retroceder. El enfrentamiento acabó cuando Andrea vino a decirles a los demás que Allen había muerto. Rick cargó con el peso del grupo sobre sus hombros nuevamente, y decidió ser él quien le disparara, pero puede que haya sido demasiado incluso para él, ya que se desmayó poco después.

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¿RICK?

¿ESTÁS DESPIERTO, RICK?

ESO CREO. ¿CAROL? TÚ--¿ESTÁS *BIEN?*

QUIZÁS DENTRO DE UN TIEMPO.

POR AHORA-- NO MUCHO.

¿CUÁNTO HE ESTADO INCONSCI-ENTE?

NO LO SÉ-- UNAS VEINTISÉIS HORAS O ASÍ. HAS DORMIDO TODA LA NOCHE.

HOY YA ES ***JUEVES.*** O AL MENOS--YA SABES, ESO ***CREEMOS.*** QUIÉN SABE SI EL CALENDARIO DE ANDREA ES DEL TODO EXACTO.

VEINTISÉIS HORAS, ¿EH?

¿LOS MUERTOS AÚN SIGUEN CAMINANDO POR AHÍ?

¿QUÉ?

SÍ, POR SUPUESTO. NO TE GOLPEASTE ***TAN*** FUERTE EN LA CABEZA-- CAÍSTE SOBRE LA ***CADERA.***

PERDONA--INTEN-TABA ***BROMEAR.*** LA ÚLTIMA VEZ QUE ESTUVE INCONS-CIENTE, DESPERTÉ CON TODO ***ESTO.*** ¿LO PILLAS?

NO TENÍA GRACIA.

QUIZÁS NO LO HE PILLADO.

HE HECHO UNA BROMA-- ***DE VERDAD*** ACABO DE HACER UNA BROMA.

UN AMIGO ACABA DE DARME UNA TUNDA. OTRO AMIGO HA ***MUERTO.*** MUCHOS OTROS MÁS HAN ***MUERTO--*** Y ***MUCHOS MÁS*** MUERTOS ANDAN POR AHÍ FUERA.

Y HAGO UNA BROMA.

QUIZÁS ME ***ESTOY*** VOLVIENDO LOCO.

¡¡CAROL!!

¡¿QUÉ ESTÁS--?!

¡¿QUÉ HA SIDO ESO?!

HE OÍDO LO QUE HICISTE POR MÍ--CON TYREESE.

QUE DIERAS LA CARA ASÍ POR MÍ--CUANDO ME ENTERÉ DE ELLO...

SIGNIFICÓ MUCHO PARA MÍ.

ME--ALEGRO DE HABER PODIDO SER DE AYUDA. NO ESTÁ ***BIEN*** LO QUE TE HIZO. NO CON TODO LO DEMÁS QUE ESTÁ PASANDO. TODOS TENEMOS QUE SER MÁS ***RESPONSABLES.***

¿CÓMO TE ENTERASTE?

LA GENTE NO HABLA DE OTRA COSA DESDE AYER. ES ALGO GORDO.

ESCUCHA. NO SE LO VOY A CONTAR A ***LORI,*** SI ES LO QUE TE PREOCUPA.

¡¿QUE NO VAS A QUÉ--?!

¡YO *VOY* A DECÍRSELO A LORI!

MIRA, CAROL--ME *CAES BIEN*, ERES UNA BUENA CHICA. SÉ QUE LORI Y YO HEMOS DISCUTIDO... DE VEZ EN CUANDO... DESDE QUE NOS CONOCISTE-- PERO ES MI *MUJER* Y LA *QUIERO.*

SÉ QUE ESTÁS HECHA POLVO POR TODO ESTO DE TYREESE, Y TAL VEZ UN POCO MAREADA POR LA PÉRDIDA DE SANGRE O ALGO ASÍ-- ENTIENDO QUE ESTÉS HACIENDO ESTO, PERO--

ESTO NO ES TODO, ¿SABES? ESTA NO ES LA ÚNICA GENTE VIVA, *NO PUEDE* SERLO. NO SOY UNO DE LOS ÚLTIMOS HOMBRES SOBRE LA TIERRA. ES *ESTÚPIDO* PENSAR QUE LO ESTAMOS HACIENDO MEJOR QUE LOS DEMÁS DE AHÍ FUERA. QUEDAN MONTONES DE HOMBRES. *TIENE* QUE HABERLOS.

DALE Y ANDREA HAN ESTADO VIGILANDO A SOPHIA POR MÍ. SEGURAMENTE DEBERÍA IR A BUSCARLA. ES CASI LA HORA DE COMER.

AYER A ÚLTIMA HORA, HERSHEL TERMINÓ DE LABRAR EL HUERTO DESPUÉS DE VENDARTE.

CASI TODOS ESTÁN FUERA AYUDÁNDOLE A PLANTAR SEMILLAS--SI ES QUE QUIERES HABLAR CON LOS DEMÁS.

RICK--HOLA. CAROL ME HA DICHO QUE ESTABAS DESPIERTO. ¿TE *ENCUENTRAS* BIEN?

DALE, ME *SIENTO* COMO SI TUVIERA QUE ESTAR TRATANDO DE *COMER* PEDACITOS DE TI.

VUELVE DENTRO Y *SIÉNTATE.* QUIERO HABLAR CONTIGO UN MOMENTO.

ES *MALO*, ¿NO?

PODRÍA SERLO. SUPONGO.

DEPENDE.

¿DEPENDE DE *QUÉ?*

TÚ *SIÉNTATE.*

¿TIENES *IDEA* DE LO *DOLOROSO* QUE HA SIDO PONERME DE PIE LA PRIMERA VEZ?

ESPERO QUE VALGA LA PENA.

RICK, *ESCÚCHA-ME.*

NO ES NADA IMPORTANTE, *DE VERDAD*--ES QUE--

YA NO VAS A SER EL *LÍDER.*

¿DE ACUER-DO?

DALE, ¿TIENES IDEA DE LO *ESTÚPIDO* QUE ME SIENTO CUANDO OS REFERÍS A MÍ COMO "*EL LÍDER?*"

¿CON QUE YA NO ESTOY AL MANDO?

BIEN.

MIRA, HIJO. DESPUÉS DE VER CÓMO REACCIONASTE AYER--CASI ESPERABA TENER QUE SACAR MI *ARMA* ANTES DE DECÍRTELO.

ES BUENO VER QUE SIGUES EN TUS *CABALES.* ME TENÍAS *PREOCU-PADO.*

QUE TE DEN. TYREESE SE LO BUSCÓ--ADEMÁS, YO SOY EL QUE HA ESTADO *INCONSCIENTE* DURANTE VEINTISÉIS HORAS.

¿LE HABÉIS PUESTO AL MANDO *A ÉL?*

NO. VOTAMOS-- FORMAMOS UN COMITÉ.

¿UN COMITÉ?

EN VEZ DE QUE UNA SOLA PERSONA TOME LAS DECISIONES. ¿ENTIENDES?

UN COMITÉ.

¿QUIÉN ESTÁ EN ESE COMITÉ?

TÚ, YO, HERSHEL Y TYREESE.

¿NOSOTROS CUATRO? ¿EN SERIO? ¿NINGUNA MUJER?

LO SÉ. SI DONNA ESTUVIERA AQUÍ...

NO SERÍA ***AGRADABLE,*** TENLO POR SEGURO.

ES QUEDARSE ***CORTO.***

SE SOMETIÓ A ***VOTACIÓN,*** LA VERDAD. AYER ESTUVIMOS ***OCUPADOS.*** PODÍAMOS HABER PUESTO A OTRO EN TU LUGAR. Y RICK, SOLO ESTAMOS HACIENDO ESTO PORQUE PARECE QUE LA ***PRESIÓN*** TE ESTÁ ***AFECTANDO.***

¿ENTIENDES?

SÍ.

PODRÍAMOS HABER ELEGIDO A OTRO TIPO, POR ASÍ DECIRLO. O PODRÍAMOS ARREGLÁRNOSLAS SOLOS, TOMAR NUESTRAS ***PROPIAS*** DECISIONES--HACER LO QUE QUISIÉRAMOS CUANDO SE TUVIERAN QUE DECIDIR LAS COSAS--IMPROVISAR, ¿SABES?

NADIE FUE POR AHÍ. SORPRENDENTE-MENTE.

ESCOGIMOS ALGO MÁS DEMOCRÁTICO-- CUATRO TIPOS CON LOS MISMOS VOTOS.

¿NINGUNA MUJER?

NO. ASÍ LO QUISIERON ***ELLAS.***

PATRICIA DIJO ALGO. QUERÍA A LORI EN EL COMITÉ EN LUGAR DE ***TI.*** POR SUPUESTO, EN CUANTO SE PERCATÓ DE QUE NADIE MÁS, ***INCLUIDA*** LORI, ESTABA DE ACUERDO CON ELLA-- SE CALLÓ.

NO SÉ QUÉ OPINA REALMENTE MICHONNE. ES FELIZ DE ***ESTAR*** AQUÍ. PASÓ POR UN INFIERNO EN EL EXTERIOR ***MUCHO*** MÁS TIEMPO QUE ***CUALQUIERA*** DE NOSOTROS.

LORI, CAROL, ANDREA, MAGGIE-- TODAS DIJERON QUE NOS QUERÍAN AL MANDO A NOSOTROS. CREEN QUE LOS CUATRO HEMOS ESTADO TOMANDO LAS DECISIONES DE TODAS FORMAS--PERO HACERLO OFICIAL TE QUITARÁ ALGO DE PESO ***DE ENCIMA.***

PERO SÍ, LES PARECE BIEN QUE ***NOSOTROS*** TOMEMOS LAS DECISIONES. A DECIR VERDAD, NO SOLO LAS MUJERES, ***GLENN*** OPINA LO MISMO.

CREO QUE SOLO QUIEREN ESTAR PROTEGIDOS.

DÍMELO SIN RODEOS, DALE. ¿TODOS CREEN QUE ESTOY *LOCO*?

...

NO LO SÉ. *ALGUNOS* LO DAN POR HECHO. NO ERES EL CHICO FAVORITO DE TYREESE EN ESTE MOMENTO.

LE *ATACASTE*, RICK.

LA MIERDA CON THOMAS. TODO ESE ROLLO DE AHORCARLE. LO DE AMPUTARLE LA PIERNA A ALLEN. DEBO DECIR QUE *MATAR A DEXTER* ES LO QUE *REALMENTE* ASUSTA A LA GENTE.

NO SABEN *QUÉ* PENSAR.

¿Y *TÚ* QUE CREES?

NO LO SÉ, RICK. DE VERDAD QUE *NO LO SÉ*.

QUIERO QUE ESTÉS BIEN. ¿ESO CUENTA?

SÍ, *CUENTA*. AHORA AYÚDAME A LEVANTARME PARA PODER SALIR.

ME GUSTARÍA HABLAR CON TODOS.

ASÍ QUE, ¿MI PADRE ESTÁ DESPIERTO?

¿ESTÁ BIEN?

ESO *PARECÍA*. NO ESTABAS *PREOCUPADO*, ¿VERDAD?

NOP. MI PADRE ES MUY DURO.

NO ESTABA NADA PREOCUPADO.

¿NO ESTABAS PREOCUPADO? ¿NI SIQUIERA UN POQUITO?

QUIZÁS UN *POCO*.

PERO SOLO PORQUE TARDÓ *MUCHO TIEMPO* EN DESPERTARSE LA ÚLTIMA VEZ.

NIÑOS, RECOGED VUESTROS JUGUETES. ES LA HORA DE COMER. CAROL VA A AYUDARME A LLEVAROS A LA CAFETERÍA A COMER UNOS SÁNDWICHES DE MANTEQUILLA DE CACAHUETE.

¿OTRA VEZ?

¿VAMOS A COMER DENTRO DE POCO? ME ***MUERO DE HAMBRE.***

TENEMOS QUE PLANTAR ESTAS SEMILLAS EN LA TIERRA--***AHORA.*** EL VERANO ESTÁ A LA VUELTA DE LA ESQUINA. ***HOY*** TENEMOS QUE ASEGURARNOS DE TERMINAR LA MAYOR PARTE, SINO ***TODA*** LA SIEMBRA.

¿PODEMOS COMER ANTES?

LORI, ***POR FAVOR.*** HE DICHO QUE LO ***SENTÍA.*** LE DIRÉ LO MISMO A ÉL EN CUANTO SE DESPIERTE.

SIEMPRE QUE ÉL LO DIGA ***ANTES.***

CHICOS, POR FAVOR. YA HABÉIS OÍDO A HERSHEL. TENEMOS ***MUCHO*** QUE PLANTAR Y NO MUCHO ***TIEMPO*** PARA HACERLO.

CAPULLO.

SOLO UN PAR DE HILERAS MÁS.

HABLANDO DEL REY DE ROMA.

VEO QUE HABÉIS ESTADO BASTANTE OCUPADOS, CHICOS.

¿ME ECHABAIS DE MENOS?

DALE ME HA CONTADO QUE SE HAN DISCUTIDO MUCHAS COSAS DESDE AYER.

ME DICE QUE SE HAN HECHO ALGUNOS CAMBIOS.

BIEN.

COINCIDO CON VOSOTROS AL CIEN POR CIEN.

NO SOY *APTO* PARA TOMAR TODAS LAS DECISIONES DE POR AQUÍ. *NINGUNO* LO SOMOS.

ESTO DEL COMITÉ ES UNA *BUENA* IDEA. CREO QUE ES ALGO QUE NECESITÁBAMOS. ME PARECE QUE TIENE MÁS *SENTIDO*, LA VERDAD.

PERO TAMBIÉN TENGO LA IMPRESIÓN DE QUE SE HAN DICHO CIERTAS COSAS SOBRE *MÍ*. QUIERO ACLARAR LAS COSAS.

QUIERO SACARLO TODO A LA LUZ.

RICK, *MIRA. TODOS* TE RESPETAMOS Y TE AGRADECEMOS TODO LO QUE HAS HECHO POR NOSOTROS... PERO SE TE HA IDO LA OLLA.

MATASTE A DEXTER--

¡¿QUÉ?!

¡¿ES ESO LO QUE NO PODÉIS *SUPERAR?! ¡¿ES* LO QUE OS HACE PENSAR QUE HE *PERDIDO EL JUICIO?!*

RICK...

NO ME INTERRUMPAS. TENGO ALGO QUE *DECIR--Y TODOS* VOSOTROS VAIS A ESCUCHARME.

ME *DEBÉIS ESO.*

SOY POLICÍA-- SÉ QUE TÉCNICAMENTE LO QUE HICE ESTUVO MAL. CONOZCO LAS LEYES-- SÉ CÓMO ERAN LAS COSAS ANTES.

¡LAS COSAS HAN CAMBIADO!

NO PODEMOS IGNORAR LAS REGLAS SIN MÁS, RICK. ¡TENEMOS QUE CONSERVAR NUESTRA HUMANIDAD!

¡ESO ES LO QUE DIGO!

MATÉ A DEXTER PARA PROTEGERNOS A TODOS. AMENAZÓ CON ECHARNOS DE ESTE LUGAR, DE NUESTRO SANTUARIO. NOS IBA A OBLIGAR A SALIR FUERA. ¡¿CÓMO DE HUMANAS HABRÍAN SIDO LAS COSAS AHÍ FUERA?! ¿CUÁNTA GENTE PERDIMOS POR EL CAMINO HASTA AQUÍ?

VI UNA OPORTUNIDAD Y LA APROVECHÉ. HUBO MUCHA CONFUSIÓN DURANTE EL ATAQUE. LO ADMITO, DEBERÍA HABER DICHO LA VERDAD DESDE UN PRINCIPIO-- Y EXPLICARME JUSTO EN AQUEL MOMENTO--PERO CREÍ QUE PREFERIRÍAIS NO SABER LO SALVAJES QUE VAMOS A TENER QUE SER DURANTE ALGO MÁS DE TIEMPO.

ENTENDÉIS DE LO QUE ESTOY HABLANDO--

¿CIERTO?

LAS COSAS HAN *CAMBIADO.* EL *MUNDO* HA CAMBIADO-- Y VAMOS A TENER QUE CAMBIAR *CON* ÉL.

¿ENTENDIDO?

¡¿SEGUÍS CREYENDO QUE VAN A *RESCATARNOS*?!

¡¿VERDAD QUE SÍ?!

¡¡NO VAN A VENIR!!

¡¡PENSADLO!! ¡¡HA PASADO *CASI* UN AÑO!! ESTAMOS *SOLOS*--SOLO SOMOS NOSOTROS Y *ESTE SITIO.* ES LO ÚNICO QUE TENEMOS *SEGURO.*

SI SEGUÍS CREYENDO QUE LAS COSAS VOLVERÁN A SER COMO *ERAN ANTES*--¡OLVIDADLO! ¡NO VOLVERÁN A SERLO! NADA VOLVERÁ A SER COMO ERA ANTES.

¡JAMÁS!

¿CREÉIS QUE ALGUNA VEZ VOLVERÉIS A VER LA *TELEVISIÓN*? ¿A IR AL *BANCO*? ¿A COMPRAR COMIDA? ¡¿A DEJAR A VUESTROS HIJOS EN EL *COLEGIO*?!

¡¿ALGUNA VEZ?!

¡*JAMÁS VOLVERÁ A PASAR!* PODÉIS ACEPTAR ESE *TRISTE* HECHO--¡O PODÉIS QUEDAROS AQUÍ SENTADOS *CON LA ESPERANZA* DE QUE *SUCEDA!* PODÉIS QUEDAROS AQUÍ SENTADOS *INTENTANDO* SEGUIR TODAS LAS PEQUEÑAS ESTÚPIDAS *REGLAS* QUE HAYAMOS *INVENTADO* PARA HACERNOS SENTIR QUE *NO SOMOS* ANIMALES-- ¡*Y PODÉIS MORIROS!*

¡CAMBIAREMOS! EVOLUCIONAREMOS. CREAREMOS NUEVAS REGLAS--SEGUIREMOS SIENDO HUMANOS Y AMABLES Y NOS PREOCUPAREMOS LOS UNOS POR LOS OTROS.

PERO CUANDO LLEGUE EL MOMENTO-- TENEMOS QUE ESTAR PREPARADOS PARA HACER LO QUE SEA NECESARIO PARA MANTENERNOS A SALVO.

¡LO QUE SEA NECESARIO!

"SI MATAS-- MUERES."

ESO HA SIDO SEGURAMENTE LO MÁS INGENIJO QUE HE DICHO NUNCA.

EL HECHO ES QUE-- EN LA MAYORÍA DE LOS CASOS, TAL Y COMO ESTÁN LAS COSAS AHORA--SI MATAS-- VIVES.

TENEMOS QUE ADAPTARNOS A ESTE MUNDO, SI QUEREMOS SOBREVIVIR. ¿ME HE VUELTO UN POCO LOCO? TAL VEZ-- PERO EL MUNDO TAMBIÉN.

HARÉ TODO LO QUE SEA NECESARIO PARA MANTENEROS A SALVO. SEA LO QUE SEA--LO HARÉ.

PERO TENÉIS QUE PARAR CON ESTA FARSA--TENÉIS QUE DEJAR DE ENGAÑAROS.

ESTO ES TODO. ESTA ES NUESTRA VIDA. AQUÍ NO ESTAMOS ESPERANDO. NO ESTAMOS GANANDO TIEMPO--NO ESTAMOS ESPERANDO A LO QUE VENGA. ¡NI ESPERANDO QUE NOS RESCATEN!

¿NO QUERÉIS QUE YO SEA EL LÍDER? PERFECTO. ME DA IGUAL. ESTOY ENCANTADO DE NO TENER LA PRESIÓN. PERO OS DIRÉ UNA COSA.

SI QUERÉIS DEJAR DE TENER FUERTES DISCUSIONES CONMIGO--SI QUERÉIS QUE ESTEMOS EN LA MISMA SINTONÍA-- ENTENDED ESO.

¡ESTO ES LO QUE TENEMOS! ES LO ÚNICO QUE TENDREMOS.

SI QUERÉIS MEJORAR LAS COSAS, MEJORAR ESTE SITIO. TENEMOS QUE ACEPTAR ESA REALIDAD.

LO HACEMOS, RICK. ES LO QUE NO ENTIENDES. ESTAMOS INTENTANDO REESTABLECER LA VIDA-- TAL COMO ERA. ESA ES NUESTRA META.

NO QUEREMOS CONVERTIRNOS EN SALVAJES, ES LO QUE NO PILLAS.

¡AHORA ES EVIDENTE QUE SOY EL ÚNICO CUERDO AQUÍ! YA SOMOS SALVAJES, TYREESE.

¡EN ESPECIAL TÚ!

EN EL SEGUNDO EN QUE METEMOS UNA BALA EN LA CABEZA DE UNO DE ESOS MUERTOS VIVIENTES-- EN EL MOMENTO EN QUE LES DAMOS UN MARTILLAZO EN LA CARA--O EN QUE LES CORTAMOS LA CABEZA.

¡NOS CONVERTIMOS EN LO QUE SOMOS!

Y ASÍ SON LAS COSAS. TODO SE REDUCE A ESO. VOSOTROS NO SABÉIS LO QUE SOMOS.

ESTAMOS RODEADOS POR LOS MUERTOS.

ESTAMOS ENTRE ELLOS--¡Y CUANDO FINALMENTE NOS RINDAMOS, NOS CONVERTIREMOS EN ELLOS! VIVIMOS EN TIEMPO PRESTADO. ¡CADA MINUTO DE NUESTRA EXISTENCIA ES UN MINUTO QUE LES ROBAMOS A ELLOS!

LOS VEIS AHÍ FUERA. SABÉIS QUE CUANDO MURAMOS-- NOS CONVERTIREMOS EN ELLOS. ¡CREÉIS QUE NOS OCULTAMOS TRAS LOS MUROS PARA PROTEGERNOS DE LOS MUERTOS VIVIENTES!

¿ACASO NO LO PILLÁIS?

¡SOMOS LOS MUERTOS VIVIEN-TES!

NOSOTROS SOMOS LOS MUERTOS VIVIENTES.

WRITE TO US AT: **WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM**

The series' fourth story arc concludes with both a bang and a whisper. Goes to show how much a little emphasis can alter a line a whole lot. Amanda here, and I'm thinking about how that final phrase not only resonates with Rick and the survivors, but with all of us who have supported this series at one point or another. Whether you've been around since the beginning, or hopped on along the way, we're a part of the story too. I am The Walking Dead. You are The Walking Dead. We are The Walking Dead... and still we're surviving.

Before we answer new mail next issue, we've got some old Letter Hacks to revisit here first.

Issue 24... coming in right on the heels of issue 23. Pretty exciting stuff, huh?

Did you guys notice the last page of 22 and the first page of 23 fit together to form one image? Pretty damn cool, huh? I stole that from Erik Larsen. Erik's done all kinds of cool shit like that in Savage Dragon. If any of you reading this like superheroes at all, you should buy every trade paperback collection of that series every printed (well, one copy of each--I mean, unless you're going to read it twice or something) it's mighty good reading.

Be on the lookout for THE WALKING DEAD Deluxe Hardcover. It'll be in stores the first Wednesday of December and will collect the first 24 issues (yeah, that's everything up to and including this issue. Pretty cool, huh?) along with a bunch of extras like the original covers, the original proposal to Image, some sketches by Charlie Adlard and Tony Moore... cool stuff. It's going to be an oversized monster of a hardcover and it'll clock in at around 600 pages. Also, it's limited edition. The print run will be kept to initial orders only... so this thing is going to retail for $100.00. Steep, I know- -but it's comparable to other volumes of this nature... and it's going to have a cool slipcase and everything.

Now let's answer some mail...

Mr. Kirkman,

Back in 1987-88, I was a youth collecting comics from "Crisis of Infinite Earths" to "DeadWorld" to "Aliens vs. Predator". In '90, I was in high school and lost interest in current comics (with exception to Spawn) and quit collecting altogether after losing nearly 90% of my comics to a storage accident. So... we get to 14 years later. I'm talking with a couple of co-workers, and found out that they both were into comics (weird thing is... I've worked with one guy for 10 years and never knew he collected comics!). To make long story short, I picked up an issue №12 (which was the newest issue at the time), and got hooked. I was referred to you by my co-workers and guys at the register. Now the reason I gave my sob story and have questions:

1) I heard "Walking Dead" doesn't print second printings, but I've got an №2 second printing. It's the only second printing of any Walking Dead issues...Could mine be counterfeit? Your comic is pretty popular here in Indianapolis, and hard to find first printings even!

There are second printings of issues 2, 7, and 8. It's just that NONE of them have new covers. I don't like variant covers very much. The copy of issue 2, I imagine, is NOT counterfeit.

1A) This relates to question 1....Could you reprint issue №4? It's the only issue I'm missing out of your collection!

Yeah, I'll get right on that print run of ONE COPY just for you.

2) I've read in Hacks, that you've never read Deadworld? Is this correct? One aspect that's similar with Walking Dead is the fact that... Nobody's in the clear on who's gonna die next! Other than that, you guys have different themes presented in your comic. Plus, I like Vince Locke, but Moore and Adlard have the best graphics.

Well, not knowing who is going to die next is common in all horror fiction, zombie or otherwise. But yeah, never read Deadworld--until the reprints from Image started up. I've read the first issue of that.

3) Kirkman--How many Superpatriots series have you done? I have War On Terror and America's Fighting Force sans issue №3

Those are the only two. Both are four issues long. War On Terror is late, only issues 1 and 2 have shipped at this point.

4) Anyone know when Fear Agent is coming out?

October. Issue 2 should be out around the same time you're reading this. Pick it up. It's a great looking book.

5) Were you guys serious about making it to issue №75? I know EVERY comic worker wants to print gazillion issues, but to realistically make it that far, would still be fascinating. Regardless, I'll be there for the ride till we get there. I promise!

We're in the mid 20s and the book is selling higher than

it ever has. At this point—making it to issue 75 is looking more and more likely every month.

6) Adlard—What else have you've worked on?

Charlie has worked on The X-Files, Astronauts in Trouble, Nobody, White Death, Codeflesh, Green Arrow, The Establishment, Warlock, Savage (collected in 2000AD) and loads of other stuff that I can't really rattle off the top of my head.

Well, that's all...for now. I hope this series is ongoing till issue 250. I'm sure you guys can handle the workload. Later!

Fred Robinson

You and me both—I'd like to do 500 issues.

You, Mr. Kirkman, have me to thank for instigating your phone number reveal on Newsarama. Yep, I went and done you a big favor by getting Bendis all riled up. For the record though I was not one of the idiots who called you. I ain't sinking that low. Anyways, I have a few questions.

1. Have you had a chance to read Mary Roach's novel "Stiff"? While it isn't exactly about the alive kind of dead it is about the dead kind of dead. It is a highly entertaining and very detailed account of what it is like to be, well uh...dead. Seriously though, you should check it out.

Never heard of it—I may have to look into that. Sounds cool.

2. Is there any chance we will ever see Tony Moore do a fill in issue? Come on man. I know you could get him to do an all Zombie 25th issue special.

Tony has moved on.

3. Will you ever do new Battle Pope work? I was a huge fan when these first came out and would give a left nut (you ain't getting Mr. Righty) to see some new Pope stories. How hard is it to throw a few stories together from that massive cranium of yours? Also, you have a knack for finding emerging artists, so I know you can find someone good to illustrate these new stories.

Toss in the right and I'll think about it.

4. Do you hear us fans when we say that we want some FUCKIN' Moore illustrated posters?

We'll see.

5. Can I please use the space in your book to tell my wife just how much I love her and how much I appreciate that she enjoys my interests almost as much as I do? By the way she is always the first to read new issues of Walking Dead.

In fact I use your book as a bribe to get her to go into the comic shop with me.

Lame.

6. One last question here. What is the next step in the Kirkman/ Bendis war?

Thomas Michael Mackiewicz

Jello wrestling.

Robert,

Thank you for bringing comics back into my life! Like others, I had been on a comic book hiatus until I found The Walking Dead. I started with the TPB's, picking up volume one while on my lunch break... I read it, and immediately bought volume two the next day, followed by volume 3 when it was released! From that point on I've been collecting the comics as they're released, and I've been buying the back issues... (In fact I just won a copy of issue №1 on ebay for $64...) I'm really happy with the way the comic is going, though I am worried a bit about Rick. I'm worried that something bad is going to happen to him... Hopefully you'll keep him alive for a long while. Alrighty, onto the numbered topics, where I write a comment or question with a number in front of it, and you post a response...

1. I highly enjoy Charlie Adlard's work, so don't get on my case about this very small gripe about his zombies. No, it has nothing to do with their hair... But their eyes. The only thing I don't like about Charlie's zombies are the eyes.. They're black holes with white lit up dots for eyes, so it looks like they're monsters or something. They should have human eyes (though glazed over with cataracts in most cases), they're not monsters or demons, they're dead human beings. But besides that, good work Charlie!

I just flipped through Volume 3 and I didn't find one zombie like that. He's done that from time to time, yes, but it's not how he draws zombies exclusively. There's a lot of variety there.

2. Action figures. Get them made. Seriously. You could have two versions of the characters made! Like, one figure of the character before the zombie plague, and one of the character during the disaster! It'd be cool to have figures of Rick and Shane as cops!

We'll see, no plans for toys as of yet.

3. Get the damn posters out already! And you better not respond to this with "I'll look into it"! And uhh.. if by the time this is printed (You better print it! I just spent $64 on one of your comics!), good job on getting those posters out!

I'll look into it.

4. Animated series. A lot of letters I've read have talked about who should be cast as who for a HBO series.. I say instead of a live action show, have an animated series, like they did for Spawn! That way the characters would still look the same... You'd just have to find some voices!

I'd prefer live action, myself.

Once again, thanks a ton for making TWD, and keep up the good work! That goes to all of you who work TWD!

Yancy Gotshall

On behalf of the entire creative team, THANKS.

Robert,

It's good to see how rabid the fans of The Walking Dead are for your book. It shows you are really connecting with your fan base. As I said in my letter published, "This is one of the best books on the market today. I can see what the strong appeal is." That letter was also published in a micro-press pub called Fantastic Fanzine as a review, hence the grading scale which seemed to cause some of your fans to take offense. Therefore, I have prepared an appropriate defense.

First of all, I stand by my grading scale. I've been reading and, yes, even collecting comics since the mid-1970's, so I have a pretty broad perspective on comics, and I think I "grade" books pretty fairly. Let's say Alex Ross, George Perez, and Frank Miller get an A+. Does Charlie rank with these guys yet? Only if he is your current personal fave. If I were to grade issue №21, I'd have to bump him up to a B/B-. He is growing as an artist. Just looking at the characters' eyes in various shots shows an amazing depth and variety of emotions. And nice use of gray tones leaves no need for color in this book. I think giving him an "A" now would be doing him a disservice. Are you telling me the guy has reached his peak? I think not.

Secondly, I stick to my point about not enough zombie action. This is a personal preference. One reader referred to me as a "zombie comic guru" and I'll take that as a compliment. I like the blood and gore. I like it in the movies and I like it in my zombie comics. I enjoyed the issue, I just would have liked a scene or two of brains hitting a wall, y'know? I realize the title Walking Dead refers not only to the zombies but the dead-men-walking humans left to deal with them as well. I'm a fan. I buy the book. I'm just asking for more zombies, that's all.

As far as soap opera is concerned, this book is top notch. Lots of characterization and interaction between the large and diverse cast. Great stuff. But look through issue №21. Where are the zombies? Other than a couple shots of them on the other side of a chain link fence, they are nowhere to be found. Was the issue intense anyway? Yes! The foot-chopping scene was chilling and revealed the morbidity of what the world has become. Tension between characters was upped in several scenes. The plot moves forward. This is a good thing. Lack of zombie action is a bad thing.

My long-time pal Stuart Kerr wrote the first incarnation of Arrow Comic's Deadworld. I used to tell him the same thing. More zombie action! And he never told me to F off.

I save my ultimate compliment for last: I plunked down my hard-earned money for this book, and I'm going to continue to do so. I spent more than a cursory 15 minutes reading it, and even took the time to offer my personal thoughts in writing. Re- read that letter. I don't say this is the greatest comic in the history of comics. I don't say that, in fact, it's the greatest work of the English language. I do say that it's "one of the best on the market today."

I certainly don't expect you, Robert, to change your vision for my sake. But you've got a pretty big letters section, which tells me you want to know what fans think. So here's to honest communication between comic fans. And here's to The Walking Dead.

"The Peanut Gallery"
Ralph Griffith

Thanks for setting the record straight, Ralph. I'll put you down in the "wanting more zombie action" column of fandom. You'll be happy to know that I too have been craving some zombie action... so starting next issue, you'll probably be getting just a little bit more. That said, this book is always going to have long spells with no zombies. That's just the nature of the book.

I just finished reading issue 21 and it inspired me to write to you guys. This is far and away the best comic in the business. I am a big reader of Marvel, DC, Image and many independent companies and this is sooo much better than anything anyone else is doing right now. The key to this story is not the zombies but the humans and how well Kirkman develops them while at the same time bringing in new ones at the right time. This work is pure genius and will be remembered in the same light as early Frank Miller, Alan Moore type stuff.

Chad Morash

Tell that to Ralph Griffith--that guy wants more zombies and gave Charlie a B/B-... the dick. (wink, you know I love you Ralph).

Mr. Kirkman,

I know this a long shot, but I figure - what the hell. I run (but unfortunately, don't own) a small comic shop in Bloomington, IN, and out of our 30 subscribers, I've gotten 20 hooked on your work. Well, that's a lie. The work hooked them, I just shoved it under their noses. Folks are addicted to Cloudfall, Battle Pope [I loaned them my old FUNKOTRON trades], Invincible, Tech Jacket, Walking Dead, Marvel Team - Up, Marvel 2099 - I'm sorry. I should've just written your library.

If I paid for gas, lodging, and a beer from the local brewery if you drink, would you ever consider a visit to the shop?

Again, a long shot, but I figured, what the hell.

Thanks.

Andrew Rosenbarger

I just don't have the time for these kinds of things these days. Sorry. I've got way too much work to do for any road trips.

Dear Letter Hacks,

Well, you're just not satisfied are you Kirkman? First you renew my interest in comic books with Invincible, then you make me fall in love with zombies through TWD. I hope you're happy. Anyway after picking up the Invincible trades, Ross at A+ comics insisted that I buy TWD, he even offered me a full refund if I didn't like it (tricky devil). So here I am once again spending my hard earned cash on yet another wonderful book of yours. TWD has gotten me thinking, I need to be "prepared" in the event of a full blown zombie invasion (not too prepared mind you, because If you're the sort of person who's really ready for zombies, you're probably so crazy you'll die soon anyway) anyway, here's my plan to escape Lexington in the event of "ZMOG! ZOMBIES!". I'm in a particularly bad part of the city from a "ravenous flesh eating corpse" standpoint right on the edge of downtown, between the Police station, the university and three Hospitals. The first place zombies will be taken is either to the police station or the hospital so I've gotta act fast, as soon as I see reports of an epidemic involving cannibalism and infected bites, I'm gonna hop on my bike (there's no way I'm taking a car, have you SEEN the traffic in this town?) For protection I've got one of those ornamental piece of shit Katana's, sure it'll fall apart after a beheading or two, but it's light and better than nothing. At which point I cut across campus (which should be fairly deserted at night) and head towards the mall, once there I meet a friend (it's cool, he's in on this too) who has an apartment nearby, and happens to own a rifle. If the Zombies have overtaken the city at this point the two of us grab his truck and make for Wal- Mart (which will undoubtably be full of zombies, I mean how many people are in Wal-Mart at any given time? Hopefully we can take them out, but if we can't it's back to the truck) We load up on essentials after clearing the zombies: gas, food, ammunition, guns, and camping equipment. Once we're supplied we make for that castle outside of town, (you know the one that rich guy built for his wife before she left him) I know the house inside burned down but the walls are still standing, and comeon it's a freaking castle! We hop the wall, kill maybe one or two zombies inside since no one really lives there and hey, we're set up for quite a while. Anyway what do you think? Want in?

Yor ob'd't, Brent Lengel

That's it, I'm MOVING.

Masters Kirkman et al,

In issue 19's Letter Hacks, Corby Daniel mentioned how the horror genre will parallel the socio-political climate of the times. I remembered reading an article in the University of Pittsburgh newspaper about a professor who was writing a book about this parallel, specifically films. I Googled for about an hour and found the article online. Professor Adam Lowenstein has written a book to be released in December entitled "Shocking Representation: Historical Trauma, National Cinema, and the Modern Horror Film." I thought you and your readers might be interested. I'll pick it up. At that time of the article (4/4/05) he felt that it was too soon for the trauma of 9/11 to be available to film. I agree but I feel that your comic addresses the trauma not only of 9/11 but also of the current climate in our nation. Kudos for providing a cathartic and entertaining read.

First question: Have you considered going the Spring Pittsburgh Comic-Con? It's a small show but it's very zombie-centric. Both Romero and Savini attend along with assorted zombie actors.

I went back when I was doing Battle Pope, 2002 I think. Haven't been back. I got to walk through the Monroeville Mall though (the one from Dawn of the Dead) THAT was pretty cool. I wouldn't be opposed to going back.

First observation: Slow zombies are much more scarier than fast zombies? I asked my four year old (the true test) and he agrees. I've played zombie with him and his friends and they always get creeped out by slow zombie daddy, fast zombie daddy is just silly. Unfortunately its not considered proper for me to read TWD to my son but we did discuss the cover to issue 19 in great detail. We both thought the sword-wielding lady with the tamed zombies was really cool.

For once, we all agree.

Second question: I know you are prolific, but are you planning to start anything new? Any original ideas you'd like to pursue? Any existing characters you'd like to tackle?

I'm always coming up with new ideas for creator-owned series. I'm currently exclusive to Marvel and can't indulge. I've got a couple I just can't wait to do, it should be cool stuff. I'd also like to get my mitts on Spider-Man one of these days, in a regular series capacity-- more than just Marvel Team-Up.

Third question: Did Bendis really baby-sit you?!? That would explain a lot!

Well, it would certainly explain my attraction to bald women. But yeah, I grew up on the same street as Brian. He's considerably older than me and from time to time, he'd baby sit my brother and I while my parents went out. This was well before my family moved to Kentucky.

Third observation: I was just going to buy the trades but decided to track all of the back issues,

primarily to read the letters page! I appreciate your effort in each issue. I really love to read what others think.

I'm glad somebody enjoys this thing. I'm glad you all like to read these things but sometimes I'd rather drive nails into my face. These things just take too long to do and I never give myself enough time. It's always "time for bed, but I'll do that letters column real quick before I hit the sack" and then here I am... FIVE HOURS LATER. Sigh. I dig seeing them in print, though.

As a native Pittsburgher who was born the year "Night of the Living Dead" was released, I've always loved the zombie genre. I feel that your book has really elevated the genre to a new level. Keep up the great work!

Take care,
Jeff Moreci

Thanks for the kind words, Jeff. The check is in the mail.

Dear Mr. Kirkman

Let me first start off like so many before me by saying that I love The Walking Dead, love it, and this is my first time ever writing to a comic writer, and the love of your book isn't even my full reason for doing so. I have been following TWD in single issues since №19, before that I borrowed the first two trades from a friend and picked up the third after reading one and two WAY too fast. Since then I chomp at the bit each month for the next issue, I just can't help it the book is so good, and I also enjoy reading your letters column (your replies make me laugh out loud sometimes). I have noticed though that your letters column seems to lack one huge thing, female fans! Well, now you will know that you have at least one. I buy the book, not my boyfriend (he just mooches and reads my copy).

When I'm at cons, it seems we have a lot of female fans. This is really the one book I do that chicks seem to dig. My wife kinda likes the book, I think.

I have been working at a comic book store for almost five years and collecting comics for a bit longer then that, before that I read my older brothers books as a kid. Whenever someone comes to the shop looking for something new I suggest TWD, and this is very strange for me because up until six months ago I was hugely afraid of zombies. Seriously, it was my one totally irrational fear. We're talking changing the channel when zombie trailers were on TV and not even wanting to touch any books or comics zombie related, everything zombie gave me nightmares. But your book has changed all that, I now have Zombie Fever and I am not giving it up.

As a woman reader I have to congratulate you on writing totally believable female characters. Thank you for not making every single woman in TWD a total nut case and pointless when it comes to tough times. I especially admire Andrea, and I'm hoping that Sophia stays on track with her wicked-ass boy friend getting ways. I also like the fact that Andrea takes matters into her own hands and hasn't let the death of her sister or being attacked by Thomas slow her down, it has only made her stronger. Thank you for creating such great role model worthy female comic characters, they are hard to find in the male centric world of comics. As are female fans, or so I've been told at conventions, but I know that there are more out there then just myself, there has to be, because you and your work deserve it.

Thanks, it really means a lot that you like the female characters. I try to make this book as realistic as I can, aside from the walking dead people, of course.

Thank you, and keep up the good work.

Amy
(honest!)

PS. - I also love Invincible and recommend that whenever someone is looking for something new with tights.

Mr. Kirkman,

First of all, thank you for creating the best damned zombie book I've ever read. Second of all, congrats on maintaining the closest thing image has to a monthly book. It is appreciated after those relatively fruitless Deadworld years of the eighties and early nineties when one was expected to wait a minimum of four-five months between issues. And while I'm thanking, congratulating, and generally kissing ass, let me add that the lack of walking dead annuals, spin-offs, cross-overs, etc make for a much more enjoyable stacked comic set that can be easily accessed in a timely manner... plus, we (i.e. readers, collectors, creators, parents) will all know that issue one-hundred actually means ninety-nine issues of previous continuity have transpired--no more, no less. That being said, I would still enjoy a flashback or two in the regular consecutively numbered series complete with emergency broadcast systems and rescue outposts. I know we've all seen these scenes before, but I'd still love seeing some of these more familiar characters' experiences during those initial shocking moments. So, here's to issue 125 and beyond, Mr. Kirkman. I for one can't wait for the aliens. But, alas, I will. Hopefully, on a continued month-to-month basis.

Still waiting for the war,
Matt Cashel (writer of the now-temporarily defunct paradigm/lover of the obscene--as long as it is tastefully done, of course)

P.S. so how about that hbo series and toyline tie-in?

Matt, Matt, Matt... Image has many monthly books. Noble Causes, Spawn, Girls, Fell, Invincible and many others come out monthly and are usually on time. But thanks for the compliments all the same.

I don't want to do too many flashbacks in the book. At first, I was going to open every TPB with a flashback, so every six issues the book would have a little glimpse into the past. It was an idea I abandoned really quick. I want to just move forward from here on out.

Just one more thing... approximately... any plans, tentative or otherwise, for maps of the traversed lands. on a related note, how about timelines? Okay, that was two but, and this is no excuse, I'm a big fan of both.

That and shock troopers. Oh, yeah, those future covers are looking sweet.

Once again,
Matt Cashel

I'd like to do some maps and timelines, but as of yet, I just haven't had time. Maybe sometime in the future.

Dear Robert

There is a fascinating albeit grisly science project aspect to Allen's wounding. Will he die and turn into a dead walker? Will he survive? Will his left foot turn?

After his wife's murder, Allen has become an uninteresting dead weight. In other words, a target. Talking about targets, turning the lights on after dark will only be a source of grief for our survivors. It will only attract more roamers, and other less decayed predators with guns.

This time what really prompted this letter is what happened in another publication. In other words, CONGRATULATIONS for winning the Wizard Fan Award in the Favorite Breakout Talent category. TWD is my favorite title and Invincible is a fun read.

Thanks. The little statue is so neat. This was my first award (and let's face it could be my only one) so I'm enjoying the heck out of this thing.

Victor Rosario Fermaint

PD Talking about Invincible, did you like Sky High? I read somewhere that a major studio optioned, Invincible for the Big Screen.

Paramount pictures optioned Invincible. I'm writing the first draft of the screenplay.

PD2 Are you going to Wizard's Texas show?

No. Not this year at least.

Have you seen Romero's The Crazies? Great card-playing gas masked soldiers. Again, looking forward to those post-25.

Matt

That just came out on DVD didn't it? Or was that the other—the vampire movie? Martin? I need to see both of those.

To all at the Walking Dead,

Ever since discovering your book at Comic-Con 2005, I can't stop reading it. Volumes 1, 2 and 3 go with me wherever I go. Since the books didn't show what the original cover arts looked like, I looked them up and eBay and damn! They were so cool, I just had to get every single issue. Tony Moore did a particular great job on Issues 6, 9, 16, 18, and 21. I'm not saying those are the only great ones, I'm just saying they're my favorite. I've asked this on a board I visit and got a fairly good response, but I wanted to know what your (Kirkman) thoughts on this were. What does the butterfly on the issue 21 cover mean to you?

Thanks for sharing your talents with the world.

Mike J. Cervantes

It means there are still caterpillars running around somewhere.

Hi Robert Kirkman and the rest of the Walking dead staff:

I just finished issue №21. Another great read. At first, I didn't even notice the little butterfly on the barbed wire fence. (on the cover) How sweet.

So Allen got bit? Oh well, he was chronically depressed anyway.

Amputation? It didn't work out so well for Miguel in Day of the Dead, if you remember.

I have the Zombie survival guide by Max Brooks and unlike most guys who write in, I think its only OK, not terrific. Its entertaining, but nothing greatly original. If you want it, send me a P.O. box №, it's yours, I'm done with it.

I've already got a copy, thanks.

If you (or the fans) want some decent zombie books try The Rising and City of the Dead by Brian Keene, Down the Road by Bowie Ibarra, and Blood Crazy and Stranger by Simon Clark. The last two aren't exactly "zombie" books, but they're similar.

Anyway, thanks again for the great comic. I'm looking forward to the Big Hardcover edition of issues №1-24.I'm sure going to pick it up.

Thanks.
Chad Kanishock

The hardcover will be out soon. Start lifting weights now.

Dear Kirkman,

I've never really written to a comic book before, but I see your one of the few that actually take the time to actually read and answer some of your fans letter, which really impresses me.

First off I want to tell you that after hearing many good things about The Walking Dead, I finally picked it up to read it at issue №18. 4 issues later I have to tell you, that you are very quickly becoming one of my favorite writers. I liked them so much I bit the bullet and spent a decent amount of cash to get all the back issues, and I'm very glad I did!!!

Normally I really don't care for Zombie Comics, but the way you write Walking Dead it just works. You actually make me "feel" for the characters in your book.

My question to you is, besides Walking Dead, what other comics have you written that you are really proud of? I would love to check out some of your other stuff and just wanted to see what you consider some of your best stuff...

Thanks for your time, and keep on writing those bad ass stories.... waiting every damn month now for my next fix hehe....

Ed Sherman

That I'm proud of? Jeez... there's nothing that I'm embarrassed of--but I don't know that I've done enough work to be particularly proud of one book over another.

I've done a ton of stuff. Battle Pope, SuperPatriot, Tech Jacket, Invincible, Brit, Capes, Cloudfall, Tales of the Realm, Masters of the Universe: Icon's of Evil, Reaper, Jubilee, Epic Illustrated (Sleepwalker), Captain America, Marvel Knights 2099, Marvel Team-Up, Fantastic Four: Foes, Magdalena/Vampirella, Space Ace... that's everything off the top of my head. I'm sure there's something I've forgotten. And there's MORE where THAT came from!

Hey Robert & gang...thanks again for printing my last e-mail. Still gives me a thrill to see my letter in print! I'm prompted to write this time through a preview I saw last night for December comics: Marvel zombies! Written by you with art by Sean Phillips (one of my fave artists). Ties in with the excellent Ultimate FF "zombie" 3-parter, but I guess you know that! Anyway, can't wait for that mini series!

Seems like Tony Moore isn't doing the Walking Dead covers from №26. Sigh, end of yet another era.

I feel the last few issues of TWD are building into something big. Though there's been action, it's kind of taken second place to the prison setting. Kind of like the calm before the storm. I have a feeling ish 25 the brown stuff hits...

Yes, I'm really excited to be working with Sean Philips on Marvel Zombies. It's going to be a hoot and I recommend you all give it a shot. Although, it's going to be NOTHING like this book.

And before I go, to "celebrate" Romero's Land of The Dead being released over here (England) - which I haven't seen yet, but will do I hope, the BBC are showing his other "Dead" movies on regular TV. Sunday night, Night of the living, tonight Dawn of, & tomorrow night, Day of (which I've only seen once, so look forward to that!).

Couldn't get any better for a zombie fan!

Quick question; do you have an end yet to the series? An actual number where the story wraps up, or do you still intend to keep on going while sales/your interest lasts?

If you guys like the book so much, why do you want it to end? Would you guys be happy if I said it's going to end at issue 50? Would you want it to end at 75? Is it just a matter of KNOWING the book is going to last a certain amount of issues. Like if I said that we were going to go to issue 129, that would just assure you that we had a good long time to go, right? I DON'T have a definite end in sight. I have ideas, but it's a long ways off, NOTHING is set in stone at this point. Just rest assured that I have a plan and will do this book for as long as I can.

I'm sure you've been asked this, but what do you think of "Land of the dead"? I've read mixed reviews. Interestingly enough, one film critic in a national paper gave the movie 3 stars out of 5 (which for a "horror" flick is excellent!)

Anyway, just as I was cutting my comic list, I read about Marvel zombies. Never mind, it'll be worth the financial strain!

Cheers
Jeff

Okay, from now on, anyone who asks me what I thought of Land Of The Dead automatically doesn't get their letter printed. Starting next issue. You've been warned.

They mention something in Wizard about Rick finally losing it. Hasn't he been slowly doing that since he awoke in the hospital? Do me a favor, don't pull a Blue Beetle and kill him. Come on, let Rick live!

Bobby W. Chamberlain

When has Wizard ever been right?

And with that I can finally go to bed. No more letters for me folks, I'm all finished. Woo hoo!

See you here next month!

-Robert Kirkman

NÚMERO 24

SALA DE MONTAJE

con Robert Kirkman

TWD (24)

(1) RICK SE DESPIERTA. 4 PANELES NEGROS.

(2) CAROL ESTÁ ALLÍ. LE DA LAS GRACIAS POR PEGAR A TYREESE.

(3) LE BESA. RICK LE RIÑE!

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8)

(9)

(10)

(11)

(12)

(13)

(14)

(15)

(16)

(17)

(18)

(19)

(20)
(21) SOMOS LOS MUERTOS VIVIENTES (DOBLE PÁGINA)

(22) ~~"NO CREO QUE ESTE BEBÉ SEA DE RICK!"~~

A TODA PÁGINA NOSOTROS SOMOS LOS MUERTOS VIVIENTES...

Ohhhh, fijaos. Es el buen cómic del "Somos los Muertos Vivientes..." tío... este es un número fundamental en la serie, así que la trama tiene que ser realmente densa y complicada, ¿verdad? Bueno... definitivamente no lo es. A ver, mirad la página anterior... es casi una página completamente en blanco. ¿Por qué no anoté absolutamente nada?

Este número fue bastante diferente a los demás en ese aspecto, es decir... no sucede casi nada. Habrá unos cuantos números en la serie que sean de este estilo y si sois detractores, se podría decir que la mayoría de ellos son números en los que no sucede gran cosa. No podría discrepar más con esta gente, pero obviamente no soy objetivo.

Sabía que este número terminaba con este gran momento. Sabía que este gran momento era una doble página, seguida de una página a toda plana. Sabía que este número tendría 22 páginas, y que esas tres páginas irían de la 20 a la 22.

Así que aquella parte estaba cerrada.

También sabía que este gran momento al final del número era el clímax de un discurso muy largo. Pero, ¿cuántas páginas iba a ocupar ese discurso? No tenía ni idea.

Normalmente empiezo en la página 1 y puede que dé SALTITOS cuando hago la trama, pero la mayoría de las veces me muevo cronológicamente hacia abajo en la página. Pero teniendo en cuenta que este gran discurso iba a ocupar... ¿Cinco páginas? ¿Ocho páginas? ¿Diez? No podía hacer las cosas como siempre.

Así que me limité a escribir el discurso. No me molesté en tomarme un tiempo para calcular cómo de largo sería o en qué páginas caería. Simplemente escribí todo el diálogo y luego volví atrás y lo distribuí en los paneles y en las páginas. Una vez lo hice, me di cuenta de que el discurso empezaría en la página 14 y se extendería nueve páginas hasta el final del cómic.

Después... ¿Quién escucharía el discurso? Pues... estaban todos plantando afuera. Bien. Estaban todos donde tenían que estar.

Sabía que Dale tenía que hablar con Rick sobre el nuevo status quo, y abríamos con la incómoda escena de Carol y Rick... y bueno... el número estaba prácticamente terminado... y no hizo falta casi nada de trama escrita. Un verdadero fastidio si alguna vez decidiera presentarlos como una característica complementaria en una reimpresión en color de la serie. A ver... yo era un vendido, pero, ¿eran TAN vendido? ¡Bah! ¡Nunca!

Ahora hablemos del nuevo status quo. El nuevo consejo. Rick, Tyreese, Hershel y Dale. Ninguna mujer. Recibí muchas críticas por aquel entonces por hacer que Dale dijera, "Creo que solo quieren estar protegidos." ¿Es esa una frase misógina y despectiva? Por supuesto. Pero las cosas que dicen los personajes no son pensamientos que aprueben los escritores que las escribieron, son cosas que hacemos decir a los personajes. Y Dale es un viejo blanco, así que tiene sentido.

En aquel momento, pensé: Lori está embarazada y pasando por muchas cosas. Andrea y Maggie son jóvenes. Michonne es nueva y no es de fiar. Se ha demostrado que Patricia y Carol son inestables en el mejor de los casos. No había una clara candidata para estar en el consejo. Tenía lógica en aquel momento, pero entonces me pasé TRES PÁGINAS en el cómic tratando de justificar esa decisión y tío... hace que todo se vuelva muy RARO, ¿verdad? Como cuando Michael Bay tenía a ese joven de 19 años saliendo con una joven de 17 años en la peli de Transformers, y hay toda una escena en la que el chico explica que no pasa nada porque tiene una tarjeta que le entregó el gobierno que aprueba la relación, (¿acaso eso existe? No contestéis.)

Michael Bay tendría que haber hecho que la chica tuviera 19 años y yo tendría que haber puesto a Lori en el consejo. La decisión que tomé en aquel momento demostró que no estaba escribiendo los mejores personajes femeninos, y me alegra decir que con el tiempo me puse las pilas y Andrea, Maggie y Michonne resultaron ser personajes femeninos de los que estoy muy orgulloso. Me gustaría poder atribuirme el mérito por la Carol de la serie de TV, pero eso le pertenece a Melissa McBride y a un equipo talentoso de guionistas dirigidos por Scott Gimple y Angela Kang.

NOTAS DE PÁGINA: (¿En serio? ¿Por qué molestarse?)

22: ¡ESTE ES EL POR QUÉ! Si miráis la parte tachada, podéis ver... tío... ¿Es que originalmente este número no tenía que terminar así? Pues no. El gran final original del Volumen 4, del Volumen 2 HC y del Volumen 1 Deluxe HC (el cómic №24 es el punto final de estas recopilaciones) iba a ser que Lori le revelara a alguien que el bebé definitivamente NO era de Rick. Este pasaje se habría escrito en esta hoja de papel posiblemente meses antes de que me sentara a escribir este número. De vez en cuando, si tenía un gran momento planeado para el futuro, me adelantaba para anotarlo y así tenerlo preparado para cuando finalmente llegara a ese número. Y a veces... lo cambiaba. ¡Esta fue una de esas veces!

Tío... no me puedo creer que haya escrito TODO ESTE comentario para una página en blanco de tramas.

PORTADA
BILL SIENKIEWICZ

"Eh, tío... Atento... No estamos solos."

DAVID FINCH

CHARLIE ADLARD

CHARLIE ADLARD

JULIAN TOTINO TEDESCO

ANDREI BRESSAN

NÚMERO 25

¡DISPONIBLE 20 DE OCTUBRE, 2021!

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